

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Maneka to sue film producer" published in the Deccan Chronicle, dated 21st June, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the film has been given clearance by the Central Film Censor Board; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor particularly when film is alleged to have violated the provisions of several Acts of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A non-Government Organisation had filed a public interest litigation petition in the Mumbai High Court seeking cancellation of the certificate issued by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to the film "RAJA KO RANI SE PYAR HO GAYA." The petition was rejected by the Mumbai High Court. CBFC examines films as per the provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952 and Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 read with the guidelines framed by the Government thereunder. Film "RAJA KO RANI SE PYAR HO GAYA" was also issued certificate as per these rules and guidelines.

Launching of Kashmir DD Channel

62. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the launch of Doordarshan Kashmir Channel in the Valley is going to cement the ties of Kashmir with the nation and would be a new chapter in national integration;

(b) whether the employees of Doordarshan Kendra and Radio Kashmir, Srinagar are working under heavy odds especially when some had already lost their life and property; and

(c) if so, what financial as well as security arrangements are being made by Government in this regard as also to see that the new channel relays the programme on national integration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The employees of Doordarshan working in the valley are entitled for a special package of financial and administrative incentives in addition to the general benefits available to Central Government employees. Special security is provided to all installations of Prasar Bharati in J & K by the State Government and the security requirements are reviewed periodically.

Committee for improvement of Prasar Bharati

†63. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV.

SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted any Expert Committee for bringing about improvements in Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, what are the suggestions of the Committee and whether Government are in full agreement with the suggestions of the Committee and want to implement it in its original form; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor and the advantage of constituting the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Government had constituted a Committee comprising of Shri N.R. Narayanamurthy, CEO Infosys, Shri Kiran Karnik, MD, Discovery Communications India and Shri Shunu Sen, a well known Marketing Consultant to study the working of Prasar Bharati and keeping in view its responsibility as a public service broadcaster to make appropriate recommendations with regard to its organizational structure, legal framework, systems and other relevant areas to ensure quality, credibility and professionalism within the organization. The Committee has submitted its report on 20th May, 2000. The recommendations/suggestions of the Committee, amongst others, include mission and objective for Prasar Bharati, accountability and structures of Prasar Bharati, financing and funding mechanism, channel positioning, programming content and production, restructuring of transmission and engineering services, improvement in

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi